

Work Session June 7, 2004 Minutes

(Monday, 20 September 2004) - - Last Updated (Monday, 20 September 2004)

Special Meeting/Work Session Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2004A Special/Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Annex commencing at 7:33 pm.

Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica, Councilwoman Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Councilman Ryan, Councilman TrachtenbergCouncil Absent: NoneAlso Present: Fran Lehman
Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, CFO Mayor Laurence Cherchi called to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilwoman Dwarica led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi stated that the conditions of the Open Public Meeting Act have been met by notice placed on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall and notices sent to the official newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi asked for a moment of silence due to the passing of former President Reagan.

1. ProclamationsMayor Cherchi presented a Proclamation to Frank Rovelli and Matt Pesesky, students at Leonia Middle School, for their accomplishment in winning the National Quiz Bowl.

2. Appointments

Mayor Cherchi appointed Ms. Martha Lieblich as the Cross Acceptance Representative for the Borough of Leonia.

Mayor Cherchi appointed Mr. Hans Spiegel as his representative to Community Development.

3. Public Hearing on Amendment to the Budget

The CFO stated the Borough is still waiting for the State to adopt their Budget, the Borough will then know if Extraordinary Aid will be granted to the Borough. The hearing tonight represents additional funds allocated for the Library and an adjustment in the Swim Pool Capital account.

1. Public Hearing – No One Spoke

Motion to adopt Amendment moved by Councilman Ryan, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. Vote on Amendment: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Amendment Adopted.

4. Approval of MinutesRegular Session May 17, 2004. Councilwoman Heveran changed 'Krowle' to 'Crowell' on page 2. Motion to Adopt minutes moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Vote on Minutes: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Minutes Adopted.

Closed Session May 17, 2004. Council to discuss changes in Closed Session.

5. Comments from the Public

Mr. Gil Hawkins of 123 Knapp Terrace advised that during public meetings the exits must be stated prior to the commencement of the meeting. Mr. Hawkins stated Overpeck Park will receive a running course this Summer. Mayor Cherchi advised the public of the exits located in the building.

6. Resolutions Councilwoman Heveran questioned the award of Custodial Services to a company that has not performed to the satisfaction of the Borough. The CFO stated the award is based on a public bid, of which the company was the lowest bidder, circumstances have to be extreme to disallow the award of the contract to the lowest bidder. The Borough did not document any dissatisfaction but the CFO has advised the company that the Borough would document any instances this year that are not satisfactory. Motion to adopt resolutions 04-156, 04-161 through 04-166 moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Vote on resolutions: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Resolutions Adopted.

7. Introduction of Ordinances

Introduction of Ordinance 13-04 entitled: An Ordinance Adopting a Codification and Revision of the Ordinances of the Borough of Leonia, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey; Providing for the Maintenance of Said Code, Repealing and Saving from Repeal Certain Ordinances not Included Therein; Establishing a Penalty for Altering or Tampering with the Code; and Making Certain Changes in Previously Adopted Ordinances.

1. Borough Clerk read the title2. Borough Clerk gave a summary

Motion to Introduce moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Council discussed ordinances that may need to be updated. Mayor Cherchi advised the Council is adopting a new code book which provides for a different numbering system. Vote on Introduction: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Ordinance Introduced.

Introduction of Ordinance 14-04 which Amends Ordinance 08-04 entitled: An Ordinance to Supplement and Amend Chapter 189 of the Code of the Borough of Leonia, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey Entitled "Towing".1. Clerk read the title.2. Borough Clerk gave a summary

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Motion to Introduce moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Council President Dwarica questioned if the Administrative fees were incorporated into the Ordinance. The Borough Clerk stated the Police Department has verified that the fees are in the ordinance. Council decided to hold this Ordinance until the next meeting.

8. Unfinished Business. Fire Alarm Fees (Laws and Ordinances)

Councilwoman Heveran stated there is confusion among the department regarding fees for false fire alarms. Councilman Trachtenberg stated the letter that the council received in the packets relates to false alarms in general, not pertaining to just the fire department. Councilman Puzzo stated the Laws and Ordinances committee has not reviewed this topic. Topic will be reviewed by the Council during the last meeting in June.

b. Emergency Siren Checking Decibels and Solution to Noise Level and Usage

Members of the Fire Department and the OEM Coordinator in attendance for this portion of the meeting. Deputy Chief Dunn reminded the Council that several years ago, the fire department requested that several alarms should be placed in different locations around town and a central alarm was to be placed at the Fire House. This would have lowered the sound but this idea was rejected due to the cost. The Fire Department has conducted tests and the levels are within OSHA guidelines. The current siren is not as loud as the previous siren that was used in the Borough for several years. There have been postings on the Taxpayer's website that the system has been tested by an outside source and the noise level is too loud, which is incorrect, there have been complaints that the Fire Department has turned the siren louder, which is also incorrect. The federal guidelines rate that this siren has a capacity of 118 decibels, but the siren has not reached this level, the highest level the fire department has reached has been 106 and this occurred with the plywood in place, without the plywood the highest level was 102 at 100 feet. There is a big difference between the 106 decibels and 118 decibels. Deputy Chief Dunn advised of the protocol for sounding the alarm.

Council discussed the different sound capability of the siren. Mayor Cherchi suggested bringing in an expert to test the sound level of the siren. Deputy Chief Dunn suggested in lieu of hiring a professional, the Council should consider purchasing another siren for a different location in town, then the sound level of both sirens could be lowered. The OEM Coordinator advised that certain sounds are not usable since they are designated for Warning, Air Raid and Attack. Mayor Cherchi believed that several towns do not use sirens. Deputy Chief Dunn stated towns that have paid fire

departments do not need the sirens and listed several towns that do use the sirens. Deputy Chief Dunn stated people are under the assumption that the siren is utilized in case the pagers are not working. This is incorrect, there are instances when the members are not wearing their pagers. The siren is also a notification for surrounding towns that when they hear the siren, mutual aid may be needed. The OEM Coordinator stated the Crossing Guards are also aware that members will be rushing to the Fire Department when the siren has been sounded. Councilwoman Mitrani questioned if it would be possible to remove one of the plugs as a trial to see how the siren would sound. Members of the Fire Department stated the siren is not heard in all parts of town with all the plugs as it is now. Councilman Ryan thanked the Fire Department for their efforts thus far to reduce the sound of the siren. Mayor Cherchi advised this topic will be discussed in the future.

c. Cell Tower Ordinance Changes

Councilwoman Mitrani stated the ordinance needs to be improved so that the Borough can defend itself against cell towers placed haphazardly throughout town. The town should also consider receiving some of the revenues that are associated with having a cell tower. The Board of Adjustment is currently working with an expert that will advise of a location for a cell tower on Broad Avenue. The Laws and Ordinance committee will be reviewing the cell tower ordinances that have been received from surrounding towns. Councilwoman Heveran will sit on the committee since Councilman Puzzo has recused himself.

d. Contractors List

Mayor Cherchi referred to the contractor list that has been compiled by the departments. Local residents that provide any of the work listed on the contractor list should be added to the list which could result in better prices for the Borough. The CFO stated the majority of the Contractor's are used to provide quotes for the Borough. The CFO proceeded to advise the Council how bids and quotes are received in government.

9. New Business

a. Ambulance Corps Stipend Ordinance

Mayor Cherchi stated an ordinance is needed that will state what the members of the Ambulance Corps will receive for a stipend. This ordinance is to further include what members are entitled to the stipend. An ordinance is to be ready for the June 21st meeting.

b. Revaluation Orders from the County Tax Assessor & Assessors Comments

The CFO stated the Tax Assessor will send a memo to the Council advising of his comments. Mayor Cherchi stated the Borough has been mandated by the County to perform a reassessment since the Borough has fallen below the average assessments.

c. Speed Humps

Mayor Cherchi stated he has received a petition from a resident requesting speed humps on Glenwood Avenue. The police department is to be contacted for review and recommendation of this area.

d. Re-lining Elm Street Lot

The CFO stated this will be done within 30 days. Mayor Cherchi stated a study was completed several years ago, which increased the number of spots within this lot. This study should be utilized prior to the striping of the lot. Council President Dwarica recalled that there were a number of choices regarding the lot. Mayor Cherchi suggested that the designs should be discussed at the next meeting.

Councilman Trachtenberg advised that he has contacted five (5) candidates for the position of Borough Administrator and would like to hold interviews at the next meeting. Councilwoman Mitrani advised Ms. Lexa Merson is to discuss the streetscape at the next council meeting as well.

10. Comments from the Public

Ms. Karen Peters of 142 Park Avenuereminded the Council that 60 members of the Fire Department are residents and

taxpayers of the Borough. Many of the members have extended families which seems to be disregarded by the Council. The members live within the Borough and are affected by what occurs in the town. The people posting on the taxpayer's website have always made negative comments regarding emergency services. The members of the Fire Department are volunteers that stop a personal activity to volunteer their services, which can not be compared to the Council attending several meetings a month throughout the year. The residents that are complaining should be grateful for what the volunteers are doing for the Borough.

Mr. Gil Hawkins of 123 Knapp Terrace stated when fire alarms are going off in school, the sirens are loud, the sound is unpleasant but the reasoning behind the annoying sound is to remove the children from the school.

Motion to enter Closed Session moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. All in favor, no objections noted.

Motion to exit Closed Session moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. All in favor, no objections noted.

Motion to adopt resolution 04-150 hiring Mr. Hanrahan moved by Councilman Ryan, seconded by Councilman Trachtenberg. Vote on resolution: Councilwoman Heveran, no; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, no; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Resolution Adopted.

Closed Session Minutes May 17, 2004. Motion to adopt minutes moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Vote on Minutes: Councilwoman Heveran, yes; Councilwoman Mitrani, yes; Councilman Puzzo, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilman Trachtenberg, yes; Council President Dwarica, yes. Motion Passes, Minutes Adopted.

Motion to adjourn moved by Council President Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan. All in favor, no objections noted. Inasmuch as there was no further discussion to take place before the Mayor and Council, this meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyla Johnson

